News release

Spring is in the air

14 March 2005

The cold northerly winds of the past few weeks will, this week, give way to much warmer winds from north Africa giving the country its first taste of spring.

Met Office forecasters are predicting a vastly different feel to our weather for many inland areas of southern Britain during this week. By Friday, temperatures may even reach 20 °C in a few parts of the south and east, banishing reminders of winter. However, the coastal fringes will be cooler and may see some cloud and drizzle at times.

The record high temperature for the UK in March is 25.0 °C, recorded in 1965 and again in 1968 and, although this record is unlikely to fall this week, the contrast in this week's forecast to recent days will be warmly welcomed.

Further north, the picture is less promising though. Despite a milder feel, spells of persistent rain are expected across Scotland and there is a risk of flooding for some Highland areas due to the combination of spells of heavy rain and thawing snow. People are advised to keep an eye on latest forecasts and check any flood alerts with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655
E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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